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Fulbright Hits Dulles' Policy

By Warren Duffee
United Press
Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-

Ark.) charged yesterday that Egypt's Aswan Dam caused the Suez war and helped Russia strengthen its hand in the Middle East.

He also told the Senate that Secretary of State John Foster Dulles failed to appreciate the importance of the dam to Egypt and the effect its construction would have had on all Arabs as an example of U. S. willingness to "help them help themselves."

Fulbright summarized the work of a special Senate subcommittee set up to study U. S. policy in the Middle East over the past 11 years. The subcommittee was created early this year during Senate consideration of President Eisenhower's Middle East resolution.

The inquiry collapsed when subcommittee members decided it was hopeless to try to wade through a mountain of documents submitted by the State Department. The Aswan Dam development was the only phase of Middle East policy fully explored by the subcommittee.

Dulles on July 19, 1956, abruptly withdrew the U. S. offer to help Egypt build the giant dam on the Nile River. The official reason given was that developments after the aid was offered the previous December were not favorable to the project's success.

Fulbright, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said there was "much evidence that our policy was influenced too much by emotion and not enough by hard-headed realities." He said Dulles' decision was "not in the best interests of the United States."

He charged that withdrawal of the aid offer was "the direct cause of the seizure by Nasser of the Suez Canal" and that it "served to increase the influence of the Soviet Union" in the already seething area.

Fulbright, who emphasized that all members of the six-man subcommittee did not agree with him, said the decision also:

- Made settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict "much more difficult."

- "Created an impression which is hard to erase that we as a Nation are interested in the economic development of other nations only if that assistance serves to put the recipient nation under the political bondage of the United States."

- "Foreclosed what may be the primary salvation of Egypt's economic problems in the long run."

- The withdrawal, "and the consequent war in the Middle East, diverted world attention from the revolution in Hungary," although "this, of course, is a second guess."

Fulbright said the Administration's decision to withdraw the offer to Egypt was made against the advice of the U. S. Ambassador to Egypt and the president of the World Bank.